

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 10616 011142Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 OES-07 SS-15 L-03 AGRE-00

LAB-04 HEW-06 TRSE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 NAS-01 NSF-02 OPIC-06 FAA-00 DOTE-00

ERDA-07 NSC-05 /087 W

-----018658 011727Z /50

R 011114Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5681

INFO DHUD WASHDC

INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS TEHRAN 10616

HUD FOR OFFICIAL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECRE, USIRJC

SUBJ: MINISTRY OF HOUSING CHANGES-HOUSING WORKING GROUP

REF: TEHRAN 07981

1. SECOND ECHELON CHANGES IN MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING PERSONNEL HAVE RECENTLY BEEN MADE, FOLLOWING CABINET LEVEL CHANGES OF EARLY AUGUST WHEN MINISTER HOMAYOUN HABERI-NASARI WAS SUCCEDED BY FIROUZ TOWFIK, FORMERLY HEAD OF THE STATISTICS BUREAU OF IRAN AND PLAN & BUDGET ORGANIZATION OFFICIAL (SEE TEHRAN 07043).

2. MAJOR CHANGE IS DEPARTURE OF ZAVEN SIMONIAN FROM MINISTRY AFTER MORE THAN FIVE YEARS AS UNDERSECRETARY AND LAST TWO YEARS AS SENIOR UNDERSECRETARY.

3. UNDERSECRETARY LINE UP NOW READS:

DR. MANOUCHEHR BEHROUN-UNDERSECRETARY FOR TECHNICAL AFFAIRS

MR. IRAJ ETESAM-UNDERSECRETARY FOR URBAN PLANNING

& ARCHITECTURE

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DR. MANOUCHEHR VAHIDI-UNDERSECRETARY FOR PROJECTS

4. DIRECT GENERAL LEVAL (EQUIVALENT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY)

IS:

DR. MOHSEN ASNOASHARI-DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION

MR. MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN MAHMOUDI-DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

MS. JILA MANSOURI-DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ORGANIZATION AND
EDUCATION
MR. JAVD MAJLESI-DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR OFFICE OF HOUSING

5. QUESTION OF CO-CHAIRMANSHIP OF HOUSING STUDY GROUP WAS
RAISED WITH DR. ETESAM, KNOWN TO COMMERCIAL SECTION IN HIS PRE-
VIOUS PRIVATE CAPACITY AS PARTNER IN LEADING TEHRAN ARCHITECTURAL/
ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY FIRM, WHO SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF
JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITY BUT WOULD RAISE QUESTION WITH NEW
MINISTER. ALTHOUGH MR. NASSER-HEJAZI IS TECHNICALLY REPLACING
MR. SIMONIAN AND ETESAM IS REPLACING MOHKAMI, IN FACT VARIOUS
FUNCTIONS HAVE BEEN REALIGNED AND NEITHER ONE IS A DIRECT SUB-
STITUTE FOR SIMONIAN.

6. EMBASSY PREPARED LETTER TO MINISTER, OUTLINING
ACTIVITIES OF THE JOINT STUDY GROUP AND ASKING FOR THE NAME
OF THE NEW CO-CHAIRMAN.

7. SUBSEQUENT TO LETTER, ECON COUNSELOR BROUGHT UP USIRJC
DURING CALL ON TOWFIK TO DISCUSS IMPERIAL GUARD PROJECT.
IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, MINISTER SAID HIS THINKING NOW IS TO
PLACE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE HOUSING ORGANIZATION (WHOLLY OWNED OPERA-
TIONAL SUBSIDIARY OF MINISTRY) ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT GIVE THE NAME
OF THE INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE.

8. COMMENT: MANAGING DIRECTOR AZARPAY CAME TO HOUSING ORGANIZATION
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LAST APRIL AS PROTEGE OF FORMER MINISTER AND HIS DEPARTURE IS
EXPECTED IMMINENTLY, ALTHOUGH IDENTITY OF HIS REPLACEMENT IS NOT
KNOWN. PLACING CHAIRMANSHIP IN HOUSING ORGANIZATION HAS VIRTUE
OF RESPONSIBILITY IN AN OPERATIONAL RATHER THAN A PLANNING AREA
BUT BECAUSE OF NECESSITY OF REFERRING JOINT COMMISSION MATTERS
TO CABINET LEVEL OF HOUSING AND OTHER MINISTRIES PUTS ADDITIONAL
STEP IN PROCESS.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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